GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3365
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
PROMOTION OF AYURVEDA IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES
Chaure Shri Bapu Hari

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ayurveda is getting popular in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the promotion of Ayurvedic system in foreign countries during the last three years,country-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir.

Government of India has been striving for the promotion and propagation of Ayurveda abroad. The efforts have gained added momentum after the establishment of a separate Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in 1995. The Department has been renamed as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). Some of the important actions of the government are as follows:

- Along with the drug manufacturers and practitioners of these systems, Government of India has also participated in presentations-cum-exhibitions abroad to increase awareness about the Indian Systems of Medicine. The Department organize a Seminar-cum-Exhibition at Geneva in 2003 and 2004 during the World Health Assembly in which the participation of AYUSH drug industry and exhibition of AYUSH medicines generated a lot of interest. Industry`s participation and the exhibition of their products generated great interest.

- Seeing the growing interest in the Indian Systems of Medicine, seats in selectged educational institutions have been reserved for foreign nationals. 30 scholarships have been offered for students of BIMSTEC countries for studying traditional medicine in India.

- Special courses are run for professionals from foreign countries at Banaras Hindu University and Gujarat Ayurveda University, which are being attended by professionals from USA, Poland, Germany, Brazil etc.

- An Indo-US Workshop on Traditional Systems of Medicine and Research has been organized jointly by National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM); National Institute of Health (NIH), USA and Department of AYUSH during 20th - 24th October, 2003 at New Delhi for identifying and formulating collaborative research proposals.

- Hon`ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Secretary participated in the deliberations in the 5th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine held at Halle (Saale) Germany in August, 2002 under the aegis of International Association for the study on Traditional Asian Medicine(IASTAM). In the congress the stregth of Indian System of Medicine, vast infrastructure and regulatory bodies for these systems, drug and standardization, research capability were duly appreciated by the participants.

- Secretary (AYUSH) visited Germany during the 10-14th October, 2003 to participate in the inauguration of the Ayurveda Academy in Castrop-Rauxel, met officials of Ministry of Health, Nordrheim- Westflen and attended other programmes.

- Secretary (AYUSH) visited Armenia & Georgia during 25th June to 1st July, 2003 to propagate Ayurveda in these countries and for creating awareness about the strength of AYUSH. She held discussion with Deputy Minister of Health of Armenia and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affair of Georgia. Both countries showed interests in adoption of Ayurveda for health care facilities in these countries.

- From the year 2000 onwards AROGYA exhibition is being organized at Delhi; China and Nepal participated in Arogya 2004.

- Joint Secretary (AYUSH) visited Russia to attend a meeting of Joint Committee on Russian Indian ILTP Centre for Ayurvedic Research in Moscow in October, 2004. He also discussed promotion of Ayurveda in Russia.

- The Department of AYUSH made effective intervention during the SAARC Health Ministers Conference held in November, 2003 in New Delhi. `National Policy/Programme of Traditional Systems of Medicines`, `Issues relating to Quality

Control & Standardization of Drugs of Traditional systems of medicine` and ` Intellectual Property Rights` were deliberated during the conference.

- During the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, held in New Delhi in January 2004, stalls exhibiting the strength of Indian traditional medicines were put up, a detailed note providing information on activities of Department of AYUSH was distributed and a film on Ayurveda was screened.

- In the sixth workshop on `Herbal Medicine-Advancing Caribbean Herbs in 21st Century` organized at St. Augustine, Port of Spain, Trinidad, a key-note address on `Ayurveda- The Health Care Legacy of India` was delivered in the first scientific session.

- There was comprehensive participation of experts and officials in the meetings organized by World Health Organization on `Global Atlas of Traditional Medicine`, Kobe, Japan in June,2003.

- An Ayurvedic pavilion was put up in the exhibition `Incredible India 2003` at Putra World Trade Centre at Kaula Lumpur, Malaysia from 2-6th December, 2003.